

# Blue Grass *exchange*

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction

## Government Site Project Manager Selected

page 2

### Summer 2004

#### In This Issue

Blue Grass Achieves Another Milestone  
page 2

Project Remains on Schedule  
page 3

Reviewer Explains Plant  
Permitting Process  
page 4

Project News Briefs  
page 5

Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile  
Outreach Office  
301 Highland Park Drive  
Richmond, KY 40475  
(859) 626-8944  
Hours 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., M–F  
Other hours by appointment  
outreach@bechtel.com

Blue Grass Chemical Activity  
Public Affairs Office  
(859) 779-6897

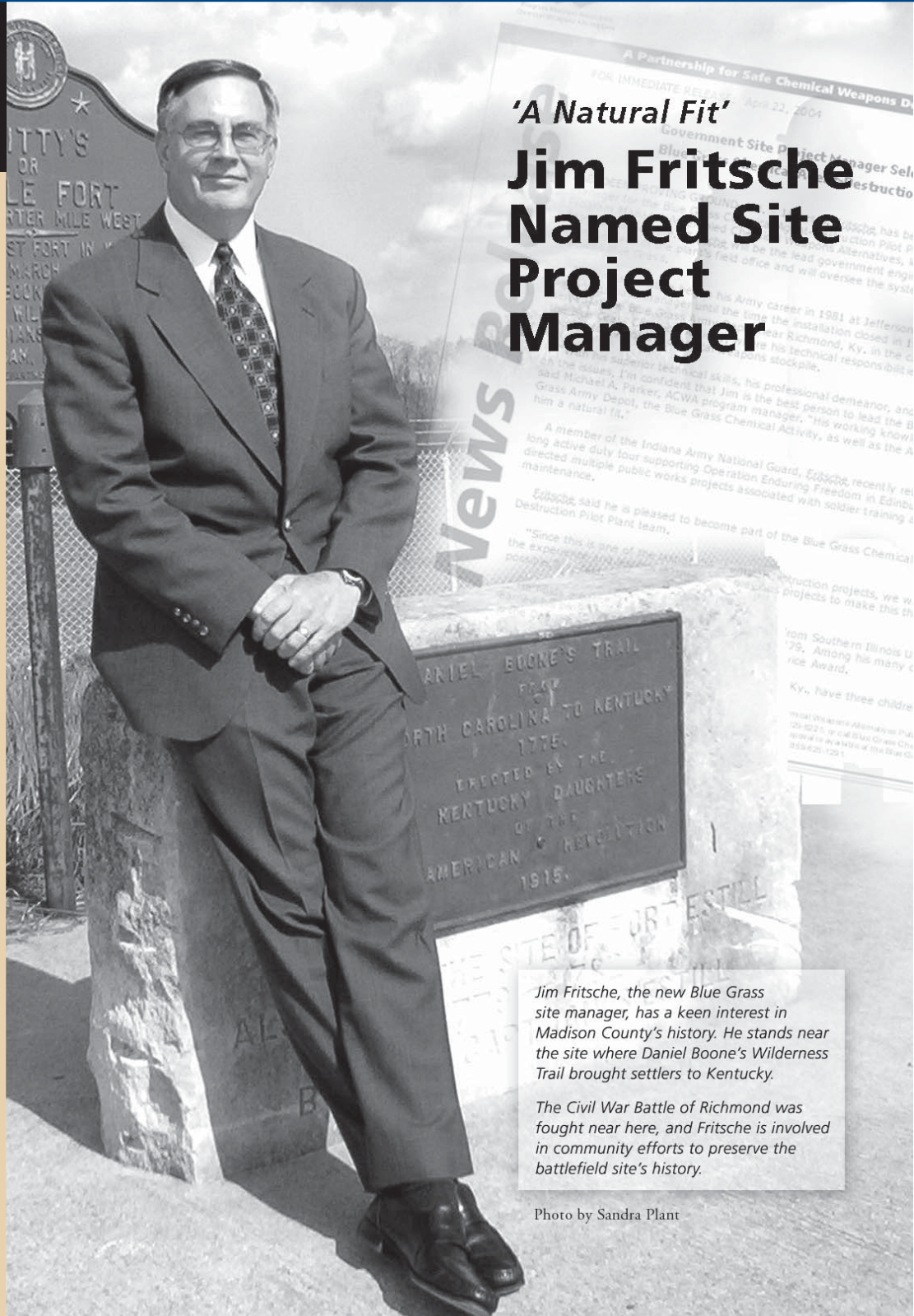
Blue Grass Army Depot Public Affairs Office  
(859) 779-6221

Bechtel Parsons Public Involvement Office  
(859) 625-1291



Blue Grass Chemical Agent-  
Destruction Pilot Plant

www.pmacwa.army.mil



### 'A Natural Fit'

## Jim Fritsche Named Site Project Manager

Jim Fritsche, the new Blue Grass site manager, has a keen interest in Madison County's history. He stands near the site where Daniel Boone's Wilderness Trail brought settlers to Kentucky.

The Civil War Battle of Richmond was fought near here, and Fritsche is involved in community efforts to preserve the battlefield site's history.

Photo by Sandra Plant

## James A. Fritsche Selected as Government Site Project Manager for Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

James A. (Jim) Fritsche has been selected as site project manager for the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant, reporting to the Program Manager Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives, known as ACWA, headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. Fritsche will be the lead government engineer responsible for management of the plant's field office and will oversee the systems contract with Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass.

The Indiana native began his Army career in 1981 at Jefferson Proving Ground, Ind., serving as base manager until the time the installation closed in 1995. Since then, he has served at the Blue Grass Army Depot near Richmond, Ky., in the capacity of top civilian at the Blue Grass Chemical Activity, where his responsibilities involve the safe, secure storage of the chemical weapons stockpile.

"With his superior technical skills, his professional demeanor, and his sharp perspective on the issues, I'm confident that Jim is the best person to lead the Blue Grass project," said

Michael A. Parker, ACWA program manager. "His working knowledge of the Blue Grass Army Depot, the Blue Grass Chemical Activity, as well as the ACWA program makes him a natural fit."

A member of the Indiana Army National Guard, Fritsche recently returned from a year-long active duty tour supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Edinburgh, Ind., where he directed multiple public works projects associated with soldier training and equipment maintenance.

Fritsche said he is pleased to become part of the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant team.

"Since this is one of the last of the chemical weapons destruction projects, we will be using all the experience and lessons learned from previous projects to make this the best effort possible," he said.

He holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Southern Illinois University and



James A. (Jim) Fritsche

Photo by Sandra Plant

earned his professional engineering registration in 1979. Among his many career awards is the Department of the Army's Superior Civilian Service Award.

Fritsche and his wife Nelma, who live in Richmond, Ky., have three children.

## With Colonel's Signature, Blue Grass Achieves Another Milestone



Photo by Dave Easter

Jamey Creech, an explosive operator, and Col. Martin Jacoby discuss artillery munitions recycling.

The signature of Col. Martin A. Jacoby, commander of the Blue Grass Army Depot, is on the permit application for the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant.

"The work on the permit is the main area where I am involved in the Blue Grass project," he said. "As owner of the property, the Army expects me to oversee the permitting."

The depot property that Jacoby commands totals 15,000 acres. The site houses storage of conventional weapons for the armed forces and is also home to the Blue Grass Chemical Activity, which is responsible for safe storage of the chemical weapons stockpile. The chemical destruction facility proposed in the permit application will be located on 20 acres adjacent to the chemical-limited area where the chemical weapons are stored.

"Building this chemical destruction facility will be a hard thing to do. That's why we have a partnership to do it," Jacoby said. "We [the partners] started out correctly. We have been honest and transparent. Our goals are aligned. Our issues are aligned. We are communicating."

Jacoby said he is committed to safe destruction of the chemical weapons on the quickest timetable: "The sooner, the better."

But Jacoby's commitment to the safety of employees and the community is his top priority. "My whole cornerstone is this: Whatever we do, we will do it safely. Regardless of money, regardless of time, we will be safe in all that we do," he said emphatically.

continued on page 6



## Project Manager's Update

# Project on Schedule; Permitting, Design and Testing Move Forward

By CHRIS MIDGETT,

Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass Project Manager

I am pleased to share with you that the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) is on schedule for the path forward we established after being awarded the contract last summer. Remaining on schedule will help us achieve our mission, which is to safely and efficiently destroy the chemical weapons while providing maximum protection to our workers, the public and the environment.

We reached a major milestone March 13 when we submitted the Research Development and Demonstration (RD&D) environmental permit application to the Commonwealth of Kentucky. An RD&D permit is required to build and perform testing on a full-scale pilot plant. The Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection, or KDEP, has environmental oversight responsibility and will review the application to ensure that the project meets all regulatory and environmental requirements. A copy of the permit application is available for review in the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office. We have finalized the site plan, which includes the building layout. A total of 25 structures and support facilities such as underground utilities will be constructed on approximately 20 acres.

***"The project continues with a perfect safety record, working more than 300 days with no recordable or even first aid injuries."***

— Chris Midgett,  
Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass  
project manager

In January we issued the process design package, which represents about a 10-percent design effort. This package provides an up-front look at our design concept and engineering basis for design. The design of the facility will be 30 percent complete by the end of July.

The process design package focuses on conceptual design of the process for demilitarizing the chemical weapons. We are also executing the Technical Risk Reduction Project, or TRRP, a series of laboratory and prototype equipment tests that provide input into the design effort by filling data gaps and validating design basis. We want the plant to work right the first time during operations, which will ensure safety, accelerate the process and reduce cost. Our team partners are leading TRRP studies in San Diego, Calif., Toole, Utah, Columbus, Ohio, and Pasco, Wash. Studies being conducted include: design, fabrication and testing of key, first-of-a-kind equipment; super critical water oxidation performance testing; and studies using sarin and mustard to confirm neutralization reactor conditions.

We are also continuing design on a new Blue Grass Army Depot access requirement. By late summer we will post a request for proposals to build an initial access road off Highway 52 and a channelization fence around the property, with construction planned to begin in January 2005. A pre-construction site safety survey will be conducted to ensure the property is free of unexpected material. If you are interested in bidding for any of these subcontracts, please contact Devon Farnstrom, our supplier advocate, at (859) 624-6201.

Safety remains our number one priority. In keeping with our Zero Accidents core value, we recently held a Safety Leadership Workshop. This workshop builds on the existing positive safety culture on the project and sets the stage for our 2004 Safety Impact Plan. The project continues with a perfect safety record, working more than 300 days with no recordable or even first aid injuries. I consider this achievement a true measure of the value of safety training.



Chris Midgett, project manager, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass, was introduced by Richmond Chamber of Commerce President Pat MacSwords at the Business at Noon luncheon April 16. MacSwords is vice president of Pattie A. Clay Regional Medical Center.

Photo by Sandra Plant

Communication and collaboration are cornerstones for project success. In April we put into action a public outreach initiative involving community roundtable luncheons. Each month, a small group of community members and leaders are invited to sit down for an informal discussion with myself, Col. Martin Jacoby, commander, Blue Grass Army Depot, Lt. Col. Dennis Cantwell, commander, Blue Grass Chemical Activity, and Jim Fritsche, the new government site manager for the project. Through these meetings, we will be able to inform the community about the project and better understand community issues and concerns.

If you are interested in attending a roundtable, contact the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at (859) 626-8944 for information.

As summer approaches, I truly appreciate the beauty of Kentucky. My wife Jane and I are in the process of building a home in Richmond, and we hope to be full-time Madison County residents by the end of the summer. We look forward to continuing our involvement in the community.

## Environmental Permitting 101 Reviewer Explains Plant Permitting Process

With the research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) permit application under review by the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection, known as KDEP, many community members have questions about the permitting process for the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant. In this interview, Eric Ringo, who is reviewing the permit for KDEP, answers your questions.

**First, a little background about yourself. How long have you worked for KDEP? How long have you been a regulator? What is your academic background and/or training?**

I graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1983 with a B.S. in mechanical engineering. I spent the last 17 years at Jim Beam Brands Distilling Company. There, as plant engineer, I was a member of the team responsible for environmental permitting and compliance. Jim Beam has Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, or RCRA, permits, Title V air permits, and Kentucky Pollutant Discharge Elimination System water discharge permits, among others. Jim Beam also closed an industrial landfill and had many special waste projects. I joined KDEP in August 2003.

**What is the overall role of the department?**

Our role is to protect the human health and the environment of the Commonwealth of Kentucky through the application of Kentucky statutes and regulations. KDEP consists of four divisions: Air, Water, Waste Management, and Environmental Services. The Division of Waste Management, or DWM, is further subdivided into eight branches: Program Planning and Administration, Solid Waste, Hazardous Waste, Superfund, Resource Conservation and Local Assistance, Field Operations, Enforcement, and Underground Storage Tanks.

**Briefly describe what the RCRA permit is for. What is the purpose of the permit?**

The Congress of the United States enacted RCRA in 1976, with major amendments in 1984, to address the growing threat of unregulated hazardous waste. RCRA permits are issued to facilities that generate, treat, store and/or dispose of hazardous waste. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Kentucky legislature, and KDEP have developed specific rules for management of hazardous waste.

**Explain the different types of permits.**

There are different types of permit applications, including research development & demonstration. DWM reviews each application after it is submitted.

**What does the state look for in reviewing the permit application?**

The division looks for a complete permit application that is protective of public health and the environment. The application will describe the facility and the waste that will be managed and present a waste analysis plan. The application also includes process information, procedures to prevent hazards, contingency plans, closure plans and personnel training. Permit reviewers use checklists during a technical review. Usually, sections of the application are incorporated by reference into the final permit.

**What is the next permitting process step?**

After a review of the application, if there are questions about the application, DWM will issue a Notice of Deficiencies. The notice may request clarification, additional information, drawings, and correction of typos. The division will meet regularly with facility representatives during the review process.

**What other permits are required?**

Other environmental permits that may be required include air permits and Toxic Substance Control Act permits (for PCBs).



Photo by Shannon Graves

*Eric Ringo, in his office at Frankfort, estimates that Blue Grass-related permit applications occupy some 95 percent of his time. He is currently reviewing permit applications for the chemical demilitarization pilot plant and also hazardous waste storage at the depot.*

**What is the role of KDEP after the Blue Grass project gets a permit?**

Because Blue Grass Army Depot is applying for an RD&D permit, the department will include a compliance schedule in the permit. The compliance schedule will include very specific conditions that will have to be met by the plant as the project progresses step by step from grade work through pilot testing with live munitions. We will require monitoring and reporting during the life of the project. Because of the size and nature of this project, DWM will have a team of persons dedicated to this project.

**How can the public have input in the process?**

Public participation is welcomed and encouraged during this process. There are active public groups dedicated to the chemical demilitarization effort at Blue Grass Army Depot. These include the Citizens' Advisory Commission and the Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board. Before a final permit is issued, KDEP will issue a public notice to encourage comments. Public comments can be sent to Mike Welch, Manager, Hazardous Waste Branch of the Division of Waste Management, 14 Reilly Rd., Frankfort, KY 40601.

## Project *News Briefs*

### You May Be Contacted for Survey

The Madison County Emergency Management Agency/Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (EMA/CSEPP) wants to find out what you know or do not know about CSEPP. The EMA is overseeing a countywide survey to discover what residents know about CSEPP and the steps they would need to take to protect themselves should a chemical accident or other emergency occur in the county. Residents will be queried on zones, shelter-in-place, sirens, and other aspects of CSEPP. The University of Louisville Survey Center is conducting the survey, which will also extend to residents of Estill, Clark, Garrard, Rockcastle, Jackson, and Powell Counties. Results from the survey are expected later in June. The survey results will help guide the development and implementation of an upcoming public outreach campaign to inform residents about CSEPP and steps to take in the event of an emergency. For more information about the survey or CSEPP, contact Michael Bryant at (859) 624-4787.

### Need a Speaker?

It is not too early to schedule a Blue Grass Project speaker for your summer or fall meetings. The calendar already includes bookings for June and July. Project representatives are available to discuss all aspects of the chemical weapons mission at Blue Grass Army Depot. You are welcome to invite any of the project partners to speak to civic and service clubs, educational and church groups and local special interest organizations. Speakers are available from the Blue Grass Army Depot, the Blue Grass Chemical Activity, Program Manager Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives or any of the teaming partners of Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass. To schedule a speaker, please contact the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at (859) 626-8944 or by e-mail at outreach@bechtel.com.

### Project Welcomes Two More Local Residents

Bridget Moore and Tracy Rowley, both of Richmond, have joined four other local residents as employees on the Blue Grass Project. The others are Shar Batts, Kevin Regan, Diane Osbourne and Jill Abner. This group of six now makes up almost half the Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass workforce that is based in Richmond.

Moore, an information technology analyst, is a graduate of Jackson County High School and a May 2003 graduate of Eastern Kentucky University's computer information systems program. She was a co-op student who worked in information systems for Madison County Schools. In her job at the Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass project office, Moore troubleshoots computers and provides information technology support.

Rowley, a senior speech communication major at Eastern Kentucky University, is performing a co-op assignment as an administrative services specialist. She is a graduate of Madison Central High School. Rowley, who is fluent in Spanish, travels to improve her language skills. She recently spent two months in Venezuela and plans a trip to Costa Rica in the spring of 2005.

### Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass Offers Scholarships to Local Students

Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass will award four \$1,000 scholarships to local students who plan to attend Berea College or Eastern Kentucky University in the fall. A graduating senior will be selected from each of the four area high schools: Berea Community High School,



Bridget Moore (left) and Tracy Rowley (right) are Richmond residents.

Photo by Sandra Plant

Madison Central High School, Madison Southern High School, and Model Laboratory High School. The application deadline is June 30. For more information, please contact Diane Osbourne at (859) 624-6204.

### Economic Impact of BGCAPP



**\$399,449** Small businesses

**\$122,126** Large businesses

**\$521,575** Total dollars spent to date

**\$138,579** Small disadvantaged

**\$16,939** Woman-owned

**\$15,003** Veteran-owned

**\$48,969** Local



## Depot Commander's Team Focuses on Permitting

*continued from page 2*

Jacoby pointed out that the depot's main mission is to provide munitions, chemical defense equipment and special operations support to the Department of Defense. More than 1,200 people work at the depot; approximately 50 work on the chemical activity.

He added that the Army team is ramping up along with the other partners in the Blue Grass Project. The Army team is focused on correct permitting, environmental safety and meeting the security needs of the next stages of the project. Security is of vital importance.

"Blue Grass Army Depot is in a higher state of security since September 11, 2001. We have never backed away from that level, and we won't," Jacoby said.

What does this mean for the hundreds of workers who will be coming onsite during construction and operation?

"Everyone that works on this project will have to have a security clearance. The workers coming onsite will not be handled any differently from others who come here. All must be cleared, and all must have a background check."

***"My whole cornerstone is this: Whatever we do, we will do it safely. Regardless of money, regardless of time, we will be safe in all that we do."***

— Col. Martin A. Jacoby,  
commander of the  
Blue Grass Army Depot

Jacoby is no stranger to conventional and chemical weapons operations. His career includes assignments in military ordnance in

the United States and Germany. During 1997–99, Jacoby commanded the Umatilla Chemical Depot in Hermiston, Ore., where he had the honor of signing the main structural beam of the chemical weapons demilitarization building along with key representatives from the Army, construction firms and union leadership.

During his assignment as commander of the Blue Grass Army Depot, Jacoby has taken a leading role in the community. He serves on the 2004 Board of Directors for the Richmond Chamber of Commerce. Many in the community know him for his numerous speaking engagements and his service as a non-voting member of the Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board, where he represents the Depot.

Jacoby, wife Maria and daughter Allegra live in Richmond.

## Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission Meets, Reviews Funding, Hears Project Updates



Photo by Sandra Plant

Seated at table, from left to right, Valerie Merlin, Dr. Worley Johnson, Dr. Douglas Hindman and Dr. Robert Miller. In background, from left to right, Lt. Col. Dennis Cantwell, Craig Williams, Michael Bryant and Carl Richards.

The Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission, or CAC, held its quarterly meeting at the Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass project office in Richmond April 12.

The CAC, which alternates its meetings between Richmond and Berea, is a group of citizens appointed by the governor to solicit input from citizens of Madison and surrounding counties regarding chemical weapons disposal. Twenty-four persons attended the meeting, including the CAC Co-Chairs Dr. Worley

Johnson and Dr. Douglas Hindman. Johnson led a discussion on CAC funding for the coming year. Hindman summarized CAC finances since Jan. 20, 2003. Dr. Robert Miller gave a presentation on the Feb. 27 Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board meeting. Mickey Morales updated the audience on the Blue Grass project and responded to questions.

Carl Richards of Madison County Emergency Management Agency gave an update on the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Plan. Craig Williams of the Chemical Weapons Working Group provided an update on the Bunning amendment, funding and legislative affairs.

Copies of minutes from the meeting are available from Valerie Merlin, CAC secretary, at 105 Fifth Street, Suite 206, Richmond, KY 40475, or (859) 625-1528. The e-mail address is [kycac@pcsystems.net](mailto:kycac@pcsystems.net).

The CAC co-chairs set July 12 at 6 p.m. for the next meeting, which will be held in Berea.

## Blue Grass Army Depot Seeks Chemical Weapons Destruction Permit

Special from the Waste Management Division, Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet, Commonwealth of Kentucky

Contact: Matt Hackathorn, (502) 564-6716

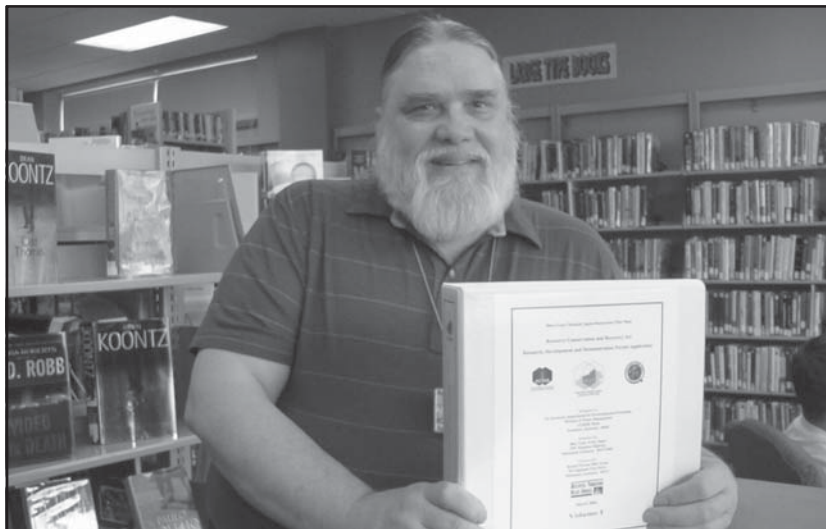


Photo by Diane Osbourne

Dave Butler, assistant circulation clerk at the Berea Branch of the Madison County Public Library, directs visitors to the information repository containing documents related to the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant. Butler's counterparts at the Richmond Branch and at the Eastern Kentucky University Library are also available to guide visitors.

FRANKFORT, Ky. – The Kentucky Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet, Division of Waste Management, received an application from Blue Grass Army Depot for a Research, Development and Demonstration (RD&D) Permit to construct and test a chemical weapons demilitarization facility.

The Blue Grass Army Depot is located at 2091 Kingston Highway, Richmond, Ky. The permit application is for the construction and testing of a full-scale chemical weapons destruction facility. Research will be conducted using chemical neutralization and water-based oxidative processes to destroy a portion of the stockpile.

Using the results from this research, Blue Grass Army Depot will apply for a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Hazardous Waste Disposal Permit to destroy all chemical weapons stockpiled there. Copies of the permit application are available for public inspection and review at information repositories. (See box.)

Anyone wishing to submit a comment, needing additional information, or wanting to be put on the facility mailing list should contact Michael V. Welch of the Division of Waste Management at the Frankfort, Ky., information repository.

For more information contact:

Kentucky Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet  
500 Mero Street 5th Floor, CPT  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
Phone: (502) 564-3350  
Fax: (502) 564-3354  
E-mail: [environment@ky.gov](mailto:environment@ky.gov)

### Information Repositories

1. **Madison County Public Library, Richmond Branch**  
507 West Main Street  
Richmond, KY 40475
2. **Madison County Public Library, Berea Branch**  
319 Chestnut St.  
Berea, KY 40403
3. **Kentucky Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet**  
Division of Waste Management  
14 Reilly Road  
Frankfort, KY 40601-1190
4. **Eastern Kentucky University Public Library**  
103 Libraries Complex  
Richmond, KY 40475
5. **Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office**  
301 Highland Park Drive  
Richmond, KY 40475



Photo by Sandra Plant

Devon Farnstrom, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass supplier advocate, helps Ken Ruhl, Commonwealth Ford, Lincoln, Mercury register his company on the supplier database during the first supplier fair March 19. Farnstrom reports that 305 vendors and service providers registered by mid-April. The next vendor fair will be Wednesday, June 16 from 1 to 7 p.m., 301 Highland Park Drive. For information, call (859) 624-6201.



## Tell Us What You Think . . .

The team at the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office helps keep the community informed about chemical weapons destruction in Kentucky. We value your feedback. Please answer the following three questions and return this form to Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 301 Highland Park Drive, Richmond, KY 40475.

### I. The Blue Grass Exchange Newsletter . . .

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
Presents information clearly.						
Covers issues that are important to me.						
Provides an adequate level of detail on these issues.						

### 2. Would you like to be added to our mailing list?

☐ Yes ☐ No

### 3. If you answered yes, please complete the following:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Please enter comments.

---

---

---

---

---

We value your interest. Your contact information will be used solely to provide you with information about this program.

Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile  
Outreach Office  
301 Highland Park Drive  
Richmond, KY 40475

